of the Bye-pass (SH-12A) and the town of Jalpaiguri. Further, as the proposal involves Parliamentary Legislation it is not feasible to indicate the tentative time schedule for actual setting up the circuit bench.

Compulsory registration of marriages

1356. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently suggested to enact legislation for compulsory registration of marriages in the country to prevent menace of child marriage; and

(b) if so, the action taken for early legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) No such recent suggestion/decision of the Supreme Court has been brought to our notice.

(b) Question does not arise in view of reply to Part (a) above.

Photo Identity Cards

1357. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether photo identity cards have been issued in all the States;

(b) if not , the States where these cards have not been issued, so far; and

(c) by when the cards would be issued to all the citizens in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Election Commission of India has informed that the programme of issuance of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) to all the citizens, who have been enrolled in the electoral rolls, have been launched in all the States and Union Territories of the country. The scheme is based on the process of registration of electors, which is a continous process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process). Therefore, the EPIC scheme is also necessarily a continuous programme, covering every new elector enrolled in the